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# Lincoln National Forest

Portraying the Power of Partnerships  
2015 Stakeholders Report



Forest Service

May 2016

Southwestern Region

Lincoln National Forest

Publication #MB-R3-08-09

Entering  
**LINCOLN**  
*National  
Forest*



## Supervisor's Welcome

**A**s I contemplate the 2015 theme of this report, "Portraying the Power of Partnerships" I found myself philosophically pondering the question, what is the value of a partnership? It is often portrayed as the amount of money amassed and invested, or the amount of acres restored, or miles of trails built. While these measures are important outputs of a partnership, I feel they fall short of a broader and more meaningful outcome. The outcome I have in mind is richer than that. The outcome I have in mind has to do with developing and sharing a deeper connection with the land and people. It has to do with citizen stewardship in which the Forest Service partners with citizens to achieve their interests. A situation in which through their participation in achieving an outcome, citizens become committed to the success of that outcome. That owing to their investment, often due to sweat equity, they have become a part of that land's management, that project, that wildlife habitat, that trail system. A place in their mind where they develop ownership and a deep value for public land and public land management.

In FY15 the Lincoln National Forest received a little over \$1.9 million value in partnership funds, in-kind services, equipment, supplies and volunteer hours in order to accomplish common interests. Through that process we developed deeper understanding of each other and better relationships. We learned how to work together more effectively. We made a difference on the land. We came up with more ideas to pursue and more partners to involve. We developed commitment to the land and to each other. We became friends.

I feel so privileged to work with communities and community members that are so engaged and involved. They see the National Forests as their back yard, their legacy and their children's' future. They are committed and invested in making their National Forest, their community, a better place; more resilient socially, ecologically and economically. A place they want to share and make memories with their friends and family. A place where they can make a living and sustain a lifestyle. This is the true power of partnerships and the true value of your National Forest! I hope you enjoy the next few pages that portray that power.

Enjoy your Lincoln National Forest!

Forest Supervisor,  
Travis Moseley



Travis Moseley  
Forest Supervisor



Heather Noel  
Smokey Bear District Ranger



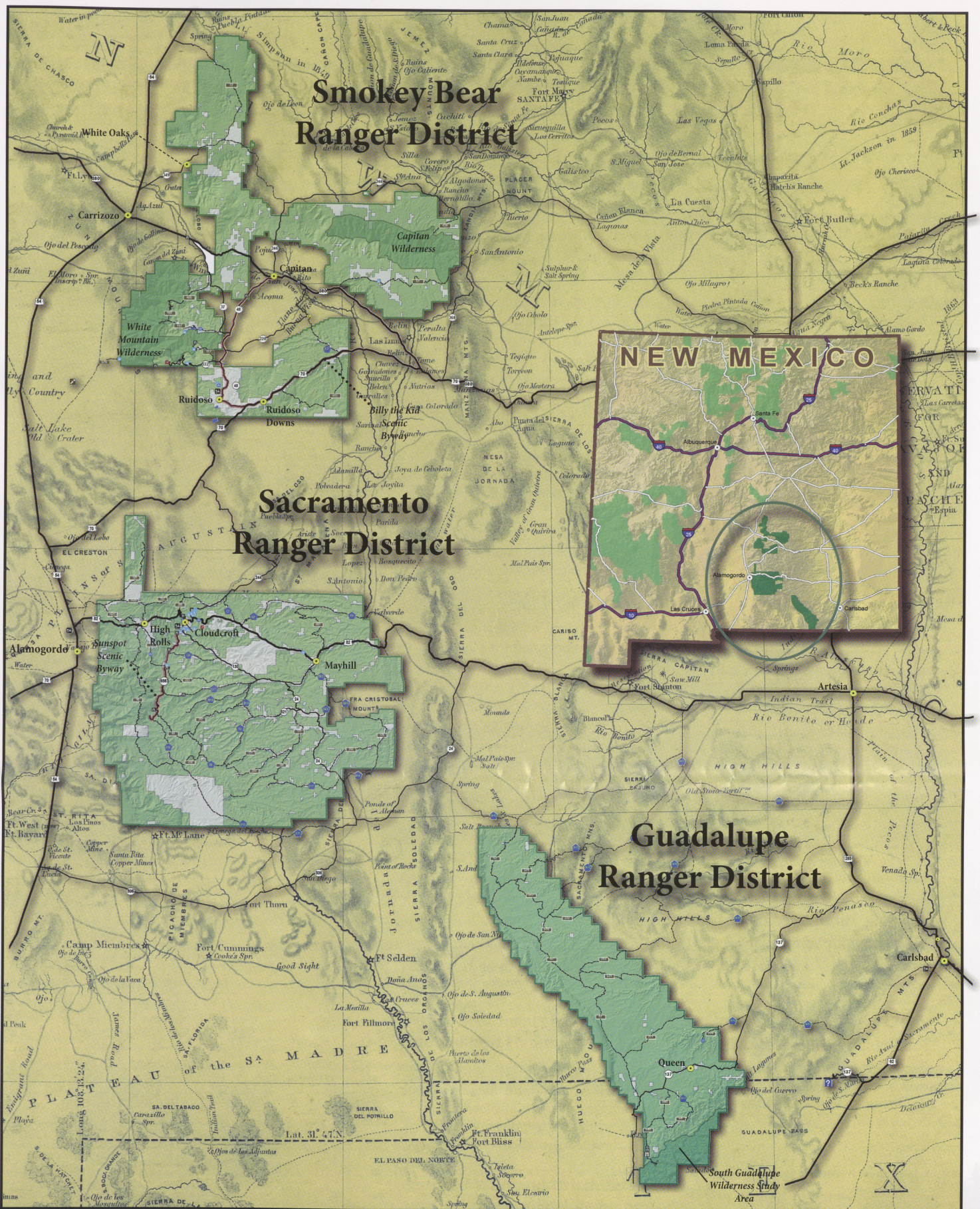
Elizabeth Humphrey  
Sacramento District Ranger



Brad Bolton  
Guadalupe District Ranger

"When there is  
teamwork and  
collaboration,  
wonderful things  
can be achieved."  
- Mattie Stepanek





Website: [www.fs.usda.gov/lincoln](http://www.fs.usda.gov/lincoln)  
 Twitter: [twitter.com/@LincolnUSForest](https://twitter.com/LincolnUSForest)  
 Flickr: [www.flickr.com/photos/lincolnnationalforest/sets](https://www.flickr.com/photos/lincolnnationalforest/sets)

Source of historical map image: 1859 Territory of NM Military Map, Library of Congress

**LINCOLN**  
 National Forest  
 SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

3463 Las Palomas Rd.  
 Alamogordo, NM 88310  
 575-434-7200

**Smokey Bear**  
 RANGER DISTRICT

901 Mechem Dr.  
 Ruidoso, NM 88345  
 575-257-4095

**Sacramento**  
 RANGER DISTRICT

4 Lost Lodge Rd (physical)  
 PO Box 288 (mailing)  
 Cloudcroft, NM 88317  
 575-682-2551

**Guadalupe**  
 RANGER DISTRICT

5203 Buena Vista Dr.  
 Carlsbad, NM 88220  
 575-885-4181



# The Christmas Tree Program

## Facts & Figures

**2,828**

Total number of Christmas tree trees sold in 2015. This includes regular and large trees, which cost an additional \$1 per foot.

**\$14,243**

Total Christmas tree sales.

**1,109**

Total number of trees sold at the Supervisor's Office, including three large tree sales which cost an additional \$1 per foot.

**590**

Total number of trees sold at the Smokey Bear Ranger District.

**869**

Total number of trees sold at the Sacramento Ranger District, including three large tree sales which cost an additional \$1 per foot.

**260**

Total number of trees sold at the Guadalupe Ranger District.

It was another successful year for Christmas tree sales on the Lincoln National Forest in 2015. Families and friends ventured out in search of the "perfect" Christmas tree, but first they visited our offices to purchase their Christmas tree permit, which allowed them to cut one tree per household. For some families, it is a cherished holiday tradition to bundle up in warm clothes, hike into the forest and cut down a fresh tree.

"I've been cutting my own Christmas tree since I was a kid," stated Stacy Jones of Alamogordo, NM. "It's a tradition I look forward to all year."

For others, it was their first experience in Christmas tree "hunting and harvesting" and they could hardly contain their excitement as they planned their family outing into the vast and beautiful forest.

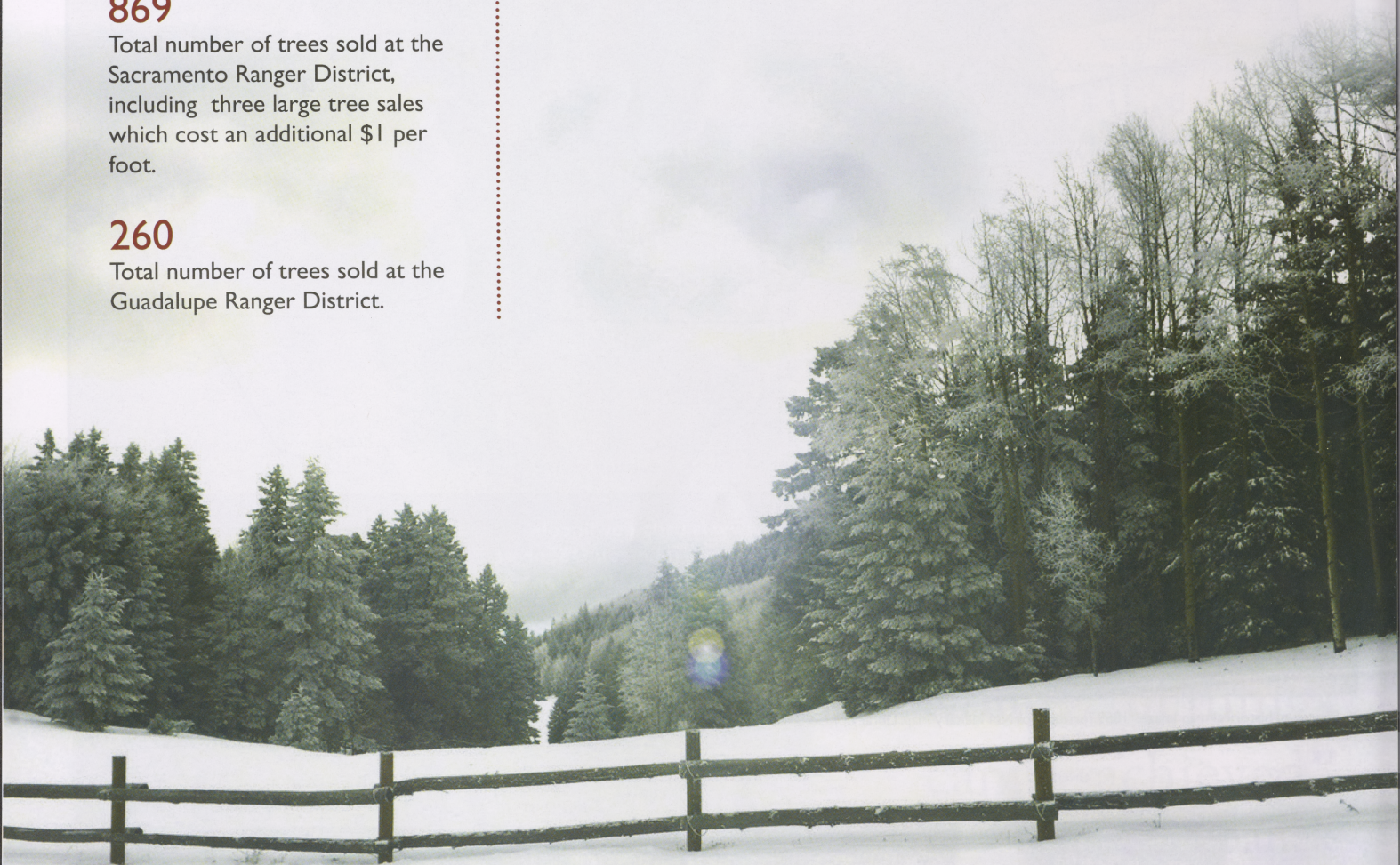
The fresh-cut trees stayed green longer, continually filling homes with the unique scent of Christmas time. All the tree-cutters were grateful the Forest Service continued the Christmas Tree Program for the public to enjoy.

The \$5 tag is still the best deal around for harvesting a live, green tree to decorate and enjoy for the holidays. The Lincoln sold over 2,800 Christmas tree permit tags forest-wide during the 2015 season.

The Christmas Tree Program benefits both the harvester and the Forest. While harvesting that perfect tree, you are helping with the ongoing need for fuel reduction to prevent catastrophic wildfire.

Lincoln  
NATIONAL FOREST

**Christmas Tree  
Program**





# The Collaborative Forest Restoration Program



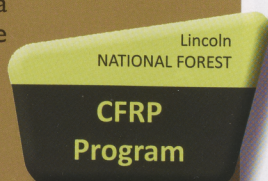
Photo by Becca Wholwinder

**W**ith over a century of fire suppression, logging and livestock grazing within many forests of New Mexico, the ecological structure and function of these lands have been considerably altered from a self-sustaining ecosystem.

In partial response to these conditions and a desire to create and maintain healthy, productive watersheds, Congress passed the Community Forest Restoration Act of 2000.

The act authorized the establishment of the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program in New Mexico to provide cost-share grants for forest restoration projects on public land designed through a collaborative process.

At the heart of this program lies a robust grants program that seeks to encourage and support critical forest restoration work.



## CFRP Projects Being Implemented

### Forest Treatments in Mexican Spotted Owl Habitat

**Project Objective:** Minimize risk of high-intensity wildfire and reduce fuel loading through mechanical treatments and prescribed fire inside owl habitat on Forest Service and Mescalero tribal lands.

### Ruidoso Wildland Urban Interface Interagency Fuel Reduction and Prescribed Fire

**Project Objective:** Treat 1,000 acres in the Ruidoso Wildland Urban Interface using mechanical thinning and prescribed fire in a multijurisdictional landscape restoration. The prescribed fire component also provides excellent opportunities for critical cross training for local, state and federal agency firefighters.

### Adding Small Diameter Capability to Ellinger Logging

**Project Objective:** Fund the purchase of a scragg mill to greatly increase the ability to use small diameter wood products.

### White Oaks Forest and Fuels Reduction

**Project Objective:** Implement 300 acres of mechanical and prescribed fire treatments. Federal, volunteer and contract fire crews will implement the prescribed fire.

### West Side Sacramento Watershed Restoration and Fuels Reduction

**Project Objective:** The City of Alamogordo, in collaboration with multiple partners, will conduct National Environmental Planning Act (NEPA) analysis for 6,696 acres on the west side of the Sacramento Mountains in order to initiate a multijurisdictional implementation effort on critical watersheds.

### Interagency Coordination and Prescribed Fire Capacity

**Project Objective:** Engage local partners to promote the use and acceptance of prescribed fire in New Mexico and reintroduce fire to 2,000 acres of fire-adapted ecosystems across the state.



## More Kids in the Forest!

The Forest Service invites and encourages kids of all ages to get out to visit the Forest. Why? Well, fresh air and exercise are good for one's health. Many people find a spiritual connection in nature. A walk in the woods can relieve the stress of a hectic life. Students can learn about vegetation, wildlife, geography and history of our area. Scientists believe getting outdoors improves student focus, attention and social interactions, while reducing behavior problems and blood pressure. There are dozens of reasons to get out and explore the national forest, but the best reasons of all...it's fun and feels good! Come on out and join us in the woods!



## Mescalero Sovereign Nations Service Corps

The Mescalero Tribe and the Lincoln National Forest have been working together to offer natural resource management experience to tribal youth through the Sovereign Nations Service Corps. Young people employed by the Tribe work on natural resource projects both on the reservation and on the forest where they learn how to build and maintain trails, survey for various plant and wildlife species, build wildlife habitat structures, manage public campgrounds and picnic areas, survey for archaeological sites and share their natural resource knowledge with younger students.



# Volunteers Make It Happen

Everyone loves the Lincoln!

Collectively, **250 individuals donated over 5 years of their personal time** to assist the Lincoln National Forest in Fiscal Year 2015. The type of person that volunteers may be young or old, local or visiting from far away, a real outdoors-person or a dedicated insider. It doesn't matter—the work volunteers contribute varies as much as the people who volunteer.

- Bicyclists, high school students, National Guard members, cheerleaders and individual volunteers worked on the trails they use and love.
- Customer service-oriented volunteers answered questions and assisted administrative employees at front desks.
- Others took care of the native landscaping at our Cloudcroft district office.
- Wildlife enthusiasts assisted with plant and animal surveys and built water catchments to improve wildlife habitat.
- Individuals led interpretive hikes for the public and watched for wildfires from fire towers.
- New Mexico Rails-to-Trails Association continued to improve the rail-trail system in the Cloudcroft area.
- One dedicated individual continues to locate and map trails and share that information with the public.
- Campground hosts care for many Forest Service campgrounds with daily clean-up, maintenance, and by offering visitor information.
- Local grottos (a club for cave enthusiasts) help manage the many caves and karsts of the Lincoln National Forest.
- Volunteers share their love of and passion for the Forest with students by sharing forest programs in classrooms



and taking classes out to experience the forest first hand.

- Those dedicated to the past assisted archaeologists

by checking historic sites to make sure all was well, documented old railroad grades and rebuilt historic structures.



Thank you volunteers for your contribution to your forest





# Gathering Firewood Reduces Fire Fuels

The Lincoln National Forest has a very active and long-standing tradition of providing the public with firewood collection opportunities throughout the year. Fuelwood permits are one of the most frequently issued permits on the forest with approximately 3,800 cords of fuelwood sold in 2015. This activity not only provides a major source of fuelwood for private and commercial gatherers but results in significant fuels reduction to lower the risk of fire in many areas.

Designated fuelwood areas exist in multiple locations across the forest and frequently change due to the availability of wood, weather and road conditions. These areas are designated within established guidelines for how and when firewood can be collected in order to protect sensitive areas and resources. The most common fuelwood types on the forest include mixed conifer, piñon-juniper and pine.

Permits and fuelwood area cutting information can be obtained at any Lincoln National Forest office.



Top: This fuelwood area was part of a previous logging operation. Designating it as a fuelwood area helps to remove unwanted fallen trees.  
Bottom: A fire is lit in an outdoor horno using fuelwood cut from the Lincoln National Forest.

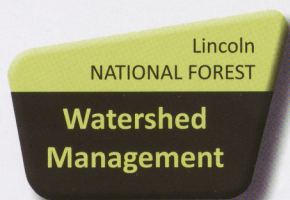


Vegetation treatments are done to restore the forest to a healthy and sustainable ecosystem using a variety of methods, some of which are included in this chart.

2015 VEGETATION ACTIVITY TREATMENTS								
	Smokey Bear		Sacramento		Guadalupe		Forest	
	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent
Prescribed Fire	992	38	2,895	32	0	0	3,887	29
Thinnings	1,306	50	5,710	64	1,583	100	8,599	65
Commercial Fuelwood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wildlife Habitat	144	6	0	0	0	0	144	1
Commercial Timber	175	7	383	4	0	0	558	4
Total	2,617		8,988		1,583		113,188	



# The Two Goats Watershed Protection Project



**T**he Two Goats Watershed Improvement Project was designed to improve and protect municipal watersheds along the western escarpment of the Sacramento Mountains. The project is a collaborative effort between the Lincoln National Forest, New Mexico Department of Energy, Minerals, & Natural Resources, the City of Alamogordo, and Otero County Working Group and has integrated objectives with fuels reduction, landscape restoration and watershed health.

The Two Goats Project is implementing vegetative treatments on approximately 1,500 acres of national forest land at a total cost of \$1,236,950. The funding to implement this project was provided through a partnership with the State of New Mexico through the New Mexico Department of Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources and through New Mexico State procurement processes.

The watershed improvement project area was selected by the State of New Mexico because it is one of the primary water supplies for the City of Alamogordo and its residents.

The Two Goats Watershed Project has been the basis for establishing a strong collaborative group called the Otero Working Group, which continues to meet to coordinate plans for future landscape projects in Otero County and the southern Sacramento Mountains.

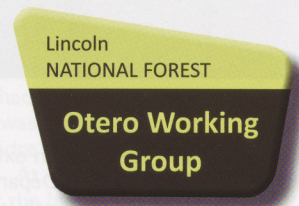
Top: The view overlooking the Two Goats Watershed Restoration Project area.  
Below: Members of the Otero Working Group reviewing progress at the Two Goats site.  
Right: Vegetation, like this cactus, slowly regrow in the treated watershed area.







# Collaborative Efforts of the Otero Working Group



Every other month a group of people interested in watershed improvement in Otero County meet. The Otero Working Group is comprised of representatives from New Mexico State Forestry, South Central Mountain Research Conservation & Development, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Mescalero Apache Tribe, City of Alamogordo, Otero County, private business owners and any interested publics.

A large portion of the Lincoln National Forest sits within Otero County. This group works to collaborate with communities, partners and stakeholders to strategically plan, develop and leverage resources in order to enhance the resiliency and restoration of Otero County Watersheds through:

1. Shared Responsibilities
2. Forest Health and Sustainability Improvement
3. Economic Development Opportunities

The Otero Working Group continually seeks to find a common understanding amongst the group members of the locations where previous restoration work had been completed, where current work is ongoing and where future work is planned.

The Otero Working Group strives to address the challenges and needs of the local forest and wood-products industries. The group is partnering with the Greater Ruidoso Group in Lincoln County, which has common goals and objectives, to host a forest and wood products workshop in Ruidoso. The objective of the workshop is to provide opportunities for augmenting the capacity of the local forest and wood products businesses in the Sacramento Mountain area.

The Otero Working Group recognizes the importance of informing and engaging communities, partners and stakeholders by coordinating opportunities to leverage all of our available resources in order to improve the watershed conditions in Otero County.



The Lincoln National Forest helps provide water to the residents of Alamogordo, New Mexico, who live at the base of the Sacramento Mountains.





# Partnering with New Mexico Department of Game & Fish

**T**he Lincoln National Forest has an extensive partnership with New Mexico Department of Game & Fish (NMDG&F) to jointly work towards land management objectives. The projects our departments collaborate on involve vegetative thinning, prescribed fire, wildlife water developments, herbicide treatment of juniper sprouts, mechanical mastication in woodlands and other environmental planning and restoration.

## **Highlight Project: The Blue Lake Wetland Restoration**

The Blue Lake Wetland Restoration Project in Game Management Unit 36 is a historic wet meadow located 7,200 feet above sea level. The project area provides browse and travel corridors for elk and deer populations in a ponderosa pine habitat type. In recent years, elk and deer populations were less visible on the landscape. The project goal was to restore a wetland meadow to maximize snow and rainfall events within an area that provides adequate cover and forage for elk and other wildlife species.

The Blue Lake Wetland Restoration Project modified and deepened two existing ponds by creating compacted clay basins with gradual slopes. Structural area enhancements included partial split rail cross-lay fencing and interpretive signage provided by the Habitat Stamp Program were put in place to educate the public about the importance of wetlands and the partners who helped with this project.

## **Funding Sources**

The Habitat Stamp Program generated about \$90,000 in 2015. Those funds are derived from the \$5 habitat stamp fee all hunters and fishermen utilizing public lands purchase on an annual basis. The money goes towards vegetative management projects and maintenance of existing Habitat Stamp Program projects and infrastructure like signage and trick tanks.

Wildlife Enhancement Funds are a NMDG&F funding source derived from the auction or raffle of big game hunting licenses. The Lincoln National Forest was a recipient of \$50,000 in 2014-2015. This funding source is being used to accomplish vegetative thinning and prescribed fire projects.

The Lincoln National Forest and NMDG&F recently entered into a three-year agreement to do mechanical mastication, prescribed fire and reconstruct existing water developments, like the Blue Lake Wetland Project mentioned above, using \$625,000 of state funds.

Discussions are ongoing regarding funding for additional thinning projects and environmental planning for a large landscape-scale analysis, which will lay the ground for future vegetation management projects.



Veteran Crew and a Lincoln National Forest wildlife technician build fence at Lake Mountain.



Trick tanks provides water for wildlife and are funded in cooperation with New Mexico Department of Game & Fish.





# TRACKING the GREEN MEDUSA ORCHID (*Microthelys rubrocallosa*)



In August 2004, a new orchid was discovered on the Lincoln National Forest. This new orchid, commonly known as Green Medusa Orchid (*Microthelys rubrocallosa*), had never been seen in the United States. Previously, it was only known from a few collections in the Sierra Madre of Chihuahua, Mexico, some 270 miles to the south. At the time, only general information was known about the habitat requirements for this species, which included light-to-moderately wooded south facing pine forest.

The site where the orchid was first discovered supported about 20 individual plants. This species is difficult to monitor because individuals are very small and typically appear above ground as leaves only, or as a non-showy, short-lived green flower stalk. However, subsequent surveys in 2015 revealed the presence of over 700 additional individuals on the Lincoln National Forest.

These surveys seem to suggest this orchid occupies a fairly specific habitat consisting of 70-85 percent overstory canopy cover dominated by Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and some Pine component (*Pinus strobiformis* or *P. ponderosa*). The understory typically consists of a sparse herbaceous layer, often including additional orchid species (i.e. *Platanthera brevifolia*, *Malaxis porphyria*, *Malaxis soulei* and *Schiedeella arizonica*) and a rather dense layer of needle duff, which may indicate the Green Medusa Orchid (*Microthelys rubrocallosa*) does not compete well against other plants.

More information is needed regarding the ecology and management needs of this species and its potential threats. The Lincoln National Forest continues to monitor these interesting little plants and search for others at similar sites on the forest.

#### References

Coleman, R.A. and M. Baker. 2006. *Microthelys rubrocallosa*, a new addition to the orchid flora of the United States. *Orchids: The Magazine of the American Orchid Society* 75(1):56-57.



Surveys in 2015  
revealed the  
presence of over  
700 additional  
individual orchids.



# Sunspot National Solar Observatory Visitors Center & Museum Exhibit Updated



A backlit panoramic photo of the actual view from Monjeau Lookout simulates what the lookout sees when standing behind the alidade fire finder pictured in the forefront.

Located in Sunspot, N.M., the National Solar Observatory sits on public lands managed by the Sacramento Ranger District of the Lincoln National Forest. The Sunspot Visitor Center & Museum first opened its doors in July 1997 as the result of a collaboration between National Solar Observatory Sacramento Peak (the day observatory), Apache Point Observatory (the night observatory located next door) and the US Forest Service.

Along with various displays about the sun, and the history of the site itself, the Lincoln National Forest has maintained an exhibit area within the Sunspot Astronomy & Visitors Center. This exhibit area had not been updated since it was first installed in 1997, and became woefully out of date. This year after a considerable amount of planning, the new exhibit area has finally

been completed. The exhibit area boasts a snapshot of the various areas of management by the Forest Service, including fire, wildlife, botany, timber (dendrology), archaeology and the railroad logging history of the Sacramento Mountains.

Visitors to the National Solar Observatory can take a tour around the facility and visit the various telescopes and historic structures, including the Grain Bin Dome. The Grain Bin Dome was the first telescope dome built at Sunspot. The dome was constructed in 1950 from a grain silo ordered from the Sears & Roebuck catalog.

The starting point for this tour is the Sunspot Astronomy & Visitors Center, where visitors receive information regarding the study of the sun that began there in 1947.

## Guadalupe Escarpment Trail (GET)

71.6 miles of trail  
and no new trail  
construction  
needed

The Lincoln National Forest's Guadalupe Ranger District is working together with Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Guadalupe Mountains National Park and the Bureau of Land Management Carlsbad Field Office to identify a long trail through the unique geology near the community of Carlsbad, New Mexico.

In 2015, the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce CEO requested a meeting with all of the local federal land management agencies to discuss the potential of creating new recreational opportunities in the area that would attract attention and ultimately bring more tourists into southeastern New Mexico. The Chamber suggested a long, multi-day hiking trail that would run through and connect the various areas that each agency managed.

The group liked and supported the idea and immediately pulled maps together and began looking for routes that would highlight and showcase the unique desert features in the area, while keeping new construction to a minimum. The group was able to identify a route that would showcase the highest point in Texas on Guadalupe National Park to the scenic and beautiful vistas along the Guadalupe escarpment, through Carlsbad Caverns National Park and the Lincoln National Forest. A 71.76 mile route was identified that would meet all of the stated objectives and utilize only existing trails or roads. No new construction would be needed and no changes or modifications to existing use types would be necessary.

The route is already completed. The trail, as currently designed, connects existing trails and roads. No new construction or modifications are needed and environmental analysis for the proposed uses has already been addressed.

Several things will be done to help users more easily plan, prepare for and complete the entire hike. The group will create a special map that better identifies the route and landmarks along the way. The group will work on signage and have one consistent sign posted along the entire route to help users stay on the right trail. Lack of water will be an issue for those attempting to hike the entire route so the group will create opportunities for temporary water storage allowing users to stash water ahead of time. Both National Parks require permits for backcountry overnight use. The parks will work together to come up with a system that will require just one pass for both parks. Current policy would require a permit from each park.

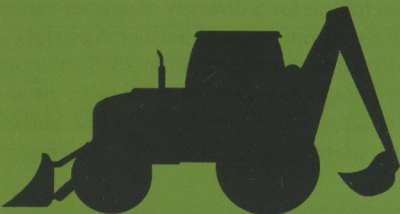
The group is meeting monthly and working to finalizing the route and a design that can be used on the signage to mark the GET. Those tasks should be completed in a few months and by summer crews can start installing the signs and temporary water storage boxes.



# Responding to Fires Across the Country



10,948 acres treated to reduce hazardous fuels, improve forest health and support restoration of mixed conifer, ponderosa pine, and grassland ecosystems



6,299 acres mechanically treated. Mechanized treatment includes using hand thinning and heavy equipment to reduce tree density, primarily in piñon-juniper woodlands. 5,597 acres of mastication, dozer push, and lop and scatter treatments were used to restore and increase native grassland ecosystems.

4,649 acres of prescribed pile and broadcast burns. The majority of burns occurred in piñon-juniper landscapes which were historically grasslands.



The Southwest had a quiet wildfire season in 2015. The Lincoln National Forest was no exception. There were 24 wildfires on the forest, for a total of 121 acres burned. Lightning caused nine fires, but only burned a total of one acre. Fifteen of the fires were human-caused and burned the remaining 120 acres.

While activity was minimal on the Lincoln National Forest, it was an incredibly busy 2015 fire season nationally. Over 10 million acres burned from both human and naturally-caused ignitions across the country. Alaska, California and the northwest quadrant of the United States were particularly hard hit due to the effects of long-term drought. Tragically, seven firefighters lost their lives during the 2015 fire season. Approximately 1.7 billion dollars were spent in suppression of wildfires.

Multiple Lincoln National Forest fire resources mobilized to support fire efforts in other regions of the United States. By July of 2015 nearly all wildland fire resources were committed to fire support out of our local region. Fire resources often worked rotations and returned for multiple assignments, particularly in the Northwest. Multiple fire and non-fire personnel provided support in overhead assignments through late September of 2015.

With continually shifting climate and vegetation conditions, the Lincoln National Forest continues to evolve in its use of technology, leadership development and overall understanding of approach to managing wildfires.



Top Photo: Prescribed fire activity.  
Bottom Photo: The Smokey Bear Hotshots on a California wildfire performing fire suppression activities.

Off-Forest Fire Assignments			
	Overhead	Crew	Equipment
Alaska	12	1	0
Eastern Area	0	0	0
Great Basin	23	0	9
Northern California	25	0	21
Southern California	14	1	3
Northwest	103	3	39
Northern Rockies	62	5	30
Rocky Mountain	4	1	1
Southern Area	2	2	2
Southwest	76	5	41
Totals	321	18	146



*Canis Latrans*, more commonly known as a coyote, hops over a log in the Grindstone Mesa area on the Smokey Bear Ranger District.



The Sacramento Salamander is a sensitive species indigenous to the Sacramento Mountains.



Grindstone Mesa on the Smokey Bear Ranger District is a natural water supply for all types of wildlife, including waterfowl.



# The Wildlife Program

The Wildlife Program manages habitat for a diversity of species across the landscape. The program has strong roots in partnerships and incorporating volunteers into work on the ground. In 2015 volunteers graciously donated more than 1,800 hours of their time working to install trick tanks and monitor federally-listed species. The program is one of the most proactive staff areas in seeking partnerships and funding supplementation for forest restoration projects.

Forest biologists continue to work with over 30 major partners, including close coordination with the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish.

The Wildlife Program on the Lincoln National Forest goes beyond the normal wildlife roles. Wildlife habitat enhancement projects for deer and elk were expanded to include migratory birds, bat species, small mammals, invertebrates and fisheries. This year biologists continued to focus on the restoration of high-elevation wetlands, like those on Grindstone Mesa on the Smokey Bear Ranger District. The Grindstone Mesa Wetland Restoration Project is a natural high elevation depression that is seasonally wet and holds water for most of the year. It harbors several species of amphibians and invertebrates such as fairy shrimp and tadpole shrimp. It also is a natural water supply for migratory birds, small mammals and larger animals such as elk and deer.



## ON THE LINCOLN

7

federally-listed  
threatened or  
endangered species

4

federal candidate species,  
meaning these species are  
proposed for federal listing

57

regional forester sensitive species,  
meaning species that may be trend-  
ing towards federal listing without  
active conservation measures.



2015 Budget		
Category	Expenditures	Percentage
Fire Preparedness	\$3,581,362	26
Hazardous Fuels	\$2,813,347	21
Restoration	\$1,927,169	14
Support Services	\$2,295,772	17
Recreation	\$887,607	6
Lands Management	\$160,165	1
Roads	\$580,445	4
Facilities	\$551,332	4
Range Management	\$376,898	2
Trails	\$135,382	1
	\$13,309,479	

10 YEAR SUMMARY OF WILDLAND FIRES						
Number and Acreage of Fires by Source						
Fiscal Year	Human Caused		Lightning Caused		Combined	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
2006	8	7	29	18	37	25
2007	3	23	17	7	20	30
2008	16	671	19	49,131	35	49,802
2009	11	1,106	30	219	41	1,325
2010	11	205	22	170	33	375
2011	19	54,367	52	25,955	71	80,322
2012	14	27	17	40,503	31	40,530
2013	13	111	13	22	26	133
2014	7	98	20	10	27	108
2015	15	181	9	0	24	181
Total	117	56,796	228	116,035	345	172,831
10 Year Avg.	12	5,680	23	11,604	35	17,283

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT 2015				
Miles of USFS Jurisdiction Roads and Trails Open for Public Use				
	Smokey Bear	Sacramento	Guadalupe	Forest
	Miles	Miles	Miles	Miles
ROADS				
Level 2 (High Clearance)	316	269	341	926
Level 3 (Passenger)	66	181	66	313
Level 4 (Paved)	2	13	4	19
TOTAL	384	463	411	1,258
TRAILS				
Hike/Pedestrian	2	11	1	14
Pack/Saddle	187	32	48	267
Mountain Bike	34	8	0	42
Motorcycle	4	94	0	98
Off-Highway Vehicle	3	81	0	84
TOTAL	230	226	49	505

Lincoln  
NATIONAL FOREST

By the Numbers  
2015

Non-Motorized

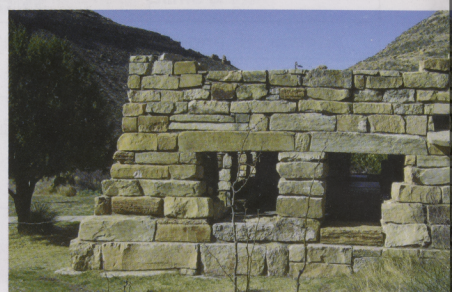
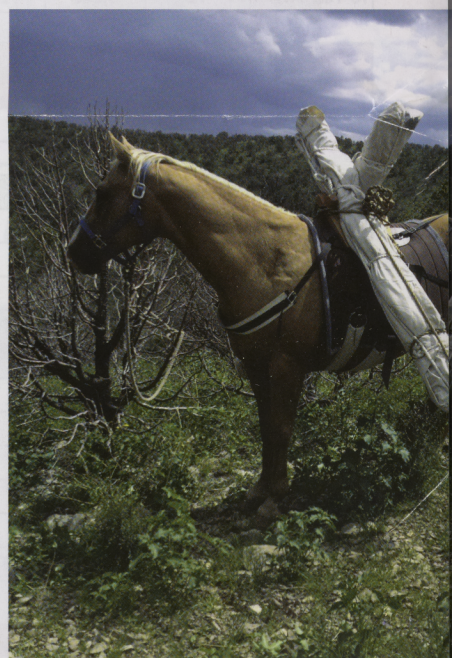
Mechanized

Motorized

Christmas Tree Permit Sales						
	\$5 tags		Large Trees		TOTAL	
	Number of	\$ Amount	\$1/foot			
	Tags Sold	Sold	# of Permits	\$ Amount	# of Trees Sold	\$ Amount
SO	1106	\$5,530	3	\$51	1109	\$5,581
Smokey Bear RD	590	\$2,950	0	\$0	590	\$2,950
Sacramento RD	866	\$4,330	3	\$82	869	\$4,412
Guadalupe RD	260	\$1,300	0	\$0	260	\$1,300
TOTAL	2822	\$14,110	6	\$133	2828	\$14,243

LAND STATUS								
	Smokey Bear		Sacramento		Guadalupe		Forest	
	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent
USFS Lands	277655	65	450501	82	283227	98	1011383	80
Non-USFS Lands	62504	15	98364	18	5312	2	166180	13
Wilderness Areas	83253	20	0	0	0	0	83253	7
TOTAL	423412		548865		288539		1260816	





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